

DB 26/08/07



Correa reflexa form
Austraflora Nursery

ASGAP

Correa Study Group

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Newsletter No. 35
July, 2007

Great News!

The Correa Study Group will not
be going into recess.

Your new leader is

Cherree Densley

ably assisted by

David and Barbara Pye

who will take on much
of the administration
including newsletter compilation
and distribution and banking.

David has many years of experience
with databases and documentation,
having used PC's for this purpose
for the past two decades.

He is also at home
with the management of
digital photos and other images.

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From the Leader

Well it's finally here - my last newsletter as Leader. It's been quite a journey and I've learnt so much as Leader. But all good things must come to an end and it's time for me to hand over the reigns for some fresh enthusiasm. While this is a form of farewell it is definitely not goodbye as I hope to maintain a strong active membership for years to come.

Fortunately we'll be in good hands. The inspirational Cherree Densley will take over as leader. She will be assisted by David and Barbara Pye who will do the newsletters and administration. When I first took over in June 1991, there were 12 members. This steadily climbed to the 90 that we had at the end of last year. Many members have been stalwarts for quite a number of years, quietly growing Correas and spreading the word.

One of my first aims was to locate and document as many Correas growing in the wild as I could. To do this we held a number of Correa crawls and I also did a fair bit of hunting with my husband Don. We tracked the Correas of the south coast of NSW, the inland northern and central ranges, the Gippsland area of Victoria, the Grampians, the Portland district, Kangaroo Island, the Fleureau Peninsula and Tasmania. There are still a few spots left to do but that will have to wait for my retirement from teaching.

My time as leader coincided with my employment at Armidale High School and there were many times when I had to juggle work, family and play and play came off second best. I still feel I haven't done as much as I could but there are only 24 hours in a day. What really suffered was my garden, parts of which have become a bit of a jungle. This is not such a bad thing as those sections are probably the best bird habitat around.

I got to meet and make lifelong friends of many of you and I thank you all for your generosity and encouragement. You've been very patient when letters weren't answered or newsletters were late and amazingly I didn't have to chase up very many overdue subs.

You lived my life with me as I shared my trials and tribulations, my successes and failures, my family woes, droughts, killer frosts and propagation disasters. In the regional magazines I read feedback from SG co-ordinators who were unanimous in describing my newsletters as being very readable and having lots of contributions by

members. Your input made it a lot easier to put a newsletter together and I've always maintained that a good newsletter should be able to be read over a relaxed cup of tea or coffee.

The newsletters changed with technology. The first ones were done with word processing but no images. I remember having to leave spaces and then draw in the images. Occasionally I would photocopy drawings or pictures or even specimens and paste them in. I even added clip art to some of the newsletters to make them more interesting.

Newsletter No 20 (Nov. 1999) was the first to have photos scanned into the text. That was the account of the Tasmanian trip. We still used slides at that time and scanned them. My husband had an expensive Nikon camera and all the gear and his slides were excellent.

Unfortunately that technology is now passe. It was replaced with digital camera technology and Don soon bought himself a little Kodak camera which gave excellent images even if it was only 3 megapixels - the top range at that time. Another important acquisition was Kath Alcock's collection of Correa paintings which came in four albums and which had to be individually removed from the album, scanned and then replaced. I now have a wonderful historical collection as these were specimens that Marian Beek had given to Kath to paint. Many a mystery plant was identified by cross matching with Kath's paintings.

Another innovation was to scan the live specimen directly using a black tent lined with velvet. This gave me some interesting effects and was invaluable for comparing specimens which were being registered with their nearest relatives.

Finally I bought myself a top class digital camera with super macro lens and I was away - getting excellent close-up images for archiving and publishing. Presentations changed also from the ubiquitous slide show which tended to send older folk to sleep in the dark to the modern PowerPoint presentation which can include text, videos and some amazing animations.

Now we also have members receiving their newsletters electronically and paying subs by electronic transfer. Where will it end? One thing that won't change however is the friendship, loyalty, enthusiasm and generosity of fellow members. Thank you for a wonderful ride these past 16 years.

Maria

From the Members

Ida Jackson writes:

I've been meaning to keep you up to date with my *Correa* seedlings but really there has been nothing interesting to report. One that I planted out is definitely *C. calycina*, identified both by foliage and by flower. Several I had potted up had similar foliage and I sold them on a street stall. Others by their foliage appear to be *C. backhouseana* var *backhouseana*. I have planted out a couple of them and so far they seem to be surviving.

There are two plants that seem to be prostrate - we have a prostrate form of *C. reflexa* with cream flowers from Victoria. They have not flowered. Another seedling came up under a dead *C. 'Marian's Marvel'*. It is still in a pot and looks quite healthy and I'll be very interested to see how it develops.

I'm afraid I've lost a lot of seedlings that I did not pot up. They are growing under a silky oak and are covered deep in silky oak leaves. I can't find them but I may not have looked in the right places. We have very severe water restrictions so I couldn't cope with them even if I did find them.

The last few years have not been kind to gardeners with water restrictions almost everywhere. Keep up the seedling observations, Ida. You may have a few secret gems. Ed

Cherree Densley writes:

I would like to do some more investigation on my *Correas* as I believe that the Flea Beetle talked about by Lola - in the last Newsletter - might have been the culprit working through many of my *Correas* last year - but I need to get my lens out and spend some time looking. Many of the plants were eaten badly and looked very unsightly. Hopefully others responded to Lola's letter. I suspected red spider mite or something similar. Plants at present all seem to be fairly healthy.

I wonder if you have some birds using their own form of biological control on your plants, Cherree. It would be interesting if you have another pest outbreak - that would mean that the pest has a dormant period. Ed

Howard and Beryl Black write:

We are very pleased that *Correa 'Ainsley'* is being registered. It is good to hear that your plant is flowering so well. We have about 6 plants from the original flowering well and

looking healthy in the cold of the Blue Mountains.

C. 'Ainsley' originated in the Black's garden and is named for one of their daughters. It is a very compact hybrid of C. decumbens. Ed



C. decumbens x 'Mannii' 'Ainsley
Origin: Howard Black
Photo: M. Hitchcock

Bob O'Neill writes:

You may remember that a tractor ran across my shoulders some 8 months or so ago. At the time the first x-rays did not pick up bone damage but later examination concluded that I had 3 broken ribs. Yesterday's bone scan revealed that 11 ribs had at least one fracture, some more, so I suppose I must have been like an egg shell at the verge of being crushed. I did not have any idea that I had come quite that close to being scraped off the driveway.

For weeks we have been bucketing water about the garden to successfully reduce most losses that probably would have come the way of a number of our younger plants, and some of those not quite so stressed were given a drink to make them happier anyway. The hand of God has eased matters by dropping 10mm of rain last night and some more is forecast within a couple of days. Shorter days, morning dew and now the cooling days will come to the rescue and I do not now expect to lose much more. The next job will be to take out the balance of failed plants and proceed to fill a few gaps once I am back to turning a few sods.

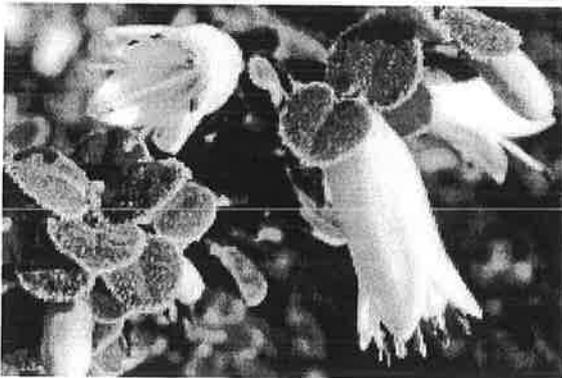
On the whole our correas have done well. In a lowish hollow there is a dampish area where I planted spare correas hoping that they would be able to cope. Well cope they have. The very dry season has obviously produced the almost ideal conditions and the correas there would be the best plants I have ever seen, they are just so strong and healthy. Some plants that have always struggled have given up or nearly so and will be replaced. The giant *C lawrenciana* up top has bent its tired head and pleaded for a drink, which I had to provide as it is such a special plant, and now with that drink and an injection of life from the rain it is once more an upstanding plant ready to face the world.

In the early summer I visited Neil Marriott and picked up 50 rainforest plants that were hanging around, too dry to plant for a number of years. They protested having their roots pulled from the ground, but eventually they arrived here and were planted the next day. There was no likely outcome of all surviving, and that is the way things developed. Probably we will finish up with maybe 40 which I am quite happy with. A few of the plants have actually taken off, but only with the assistance of most regular water bucketing. I always have had relatively long arms, they must be even longer now.

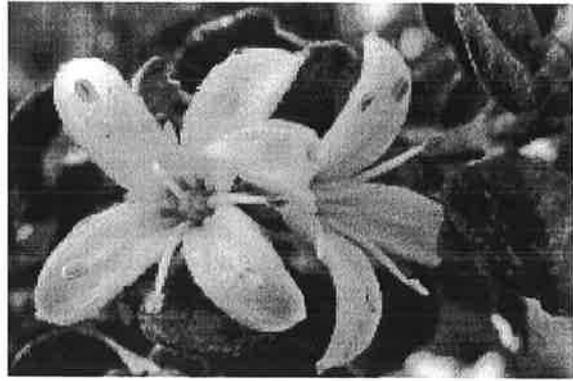
Bob has since has a serious operation but is well on the mend and as active as ever. They visited me last weekend on a well-earned trip north. Ed.

Tony Cavanagh writes:

I have attached some pictures of Correas from my garden. I don't grow a lot but a couple of these are interesting and I thought that you might like to see them. They are all taken with a 6Mp Olympus SP500UZ digital camera which has both X10 zoom and super macro and I have been very pleased with the colour fidelity and general operation.



C. reflexa var *nummulariifolia*
Photo: Tony Cavanagh



C. alba
Photo: Tony Cavanagh

Tony's photos are outstanding. Thank you for these Tony. Ed.

Geoff Rigby writes:

The APS Central Coast Group have asked me to come (again) and talk about correas this time. I thought I would give a few comments on my experiences (good and bad), talk briefly about the Correa Key and maybe highlight a few of the recent developments and aspects of the Study Group. I wondered if maybe you might have something about the Study Group and some electronic images that I might be able to use as I have not yet got around to scanning some of my slides. It is much easier to use a data projector these days.

I sent Geoff a CD with images that he could use. The feedback was excellent. Most groups have their own data projectors these days or can borrow one for presentations. No more putting slides in upside down or knocking over the tray of slides and putting them back in all out of order - remember the good ol' days? Some data projectors are now under \$1000 and the better ones don't even need a computer attached - all you do is insert your USB drive and the data can be displayed. It's all magic. Ed.

Brian and Betty Lacy write:

Betty and I have commenced our conversion of the garden with some plants taken out and new beds established and approx. 30 plants put in. These include *Correa* 'Winter pink', *C. reflexa* 'Pt Hicks', *C. reflexa* form, *C. 'Portland Peach'* and two *C. alba* 'pink' forms. We were away for two weeks over Christmas New Year and pleasantly surprised that only one plant was lost during the heat. Getting 25mm of rain two days after returning was also a great boost to the garden. When the roses, camellias etc go to friends in autumn we can then do some major planting. We hope that the new plants already planted will be tolerant to grey water, so far so good.

The reference to *Correa pulchella x backhousiana* on page 1 of newsletter No 34 concerns me in relation to registration and marketing within the next two years. How can a plant, still in a pot, be able to be registered and marketed so quickly without substantial trialling? I am not aware of the minimum period required before being registered but would have thought 5 years at least would be appropriate. The plant in question may well be a great acquisition to the *Correa* collection with its bright flowers and compact form if retained after trialling.

We will keep you informed of progress with the garden conversion. We are very much looking forward to getting more birds into the garden as the *Correas*, *Grevilleas* etc grow and mature.

The form referred to is 'Kiss Me Kate' and is a chance seedling originating at Mole Station Nursery. I can understand your hesitation at having such an untried plant registered but the Caldwells (who grew and marketed 'Federation Belle' are reputable nurserymen and are unlikely to distribute the plant until properly trialled by themselves and others. Some small plants grow to maturity quickly and could be registered within 5 years. Registration is merely a claim to the name to stop others from naming the plant something else and marketing it under another name. This is still possible even with ACRA registration as there are no real penalties unlike with PBR which costs a huge amount of money. Ed

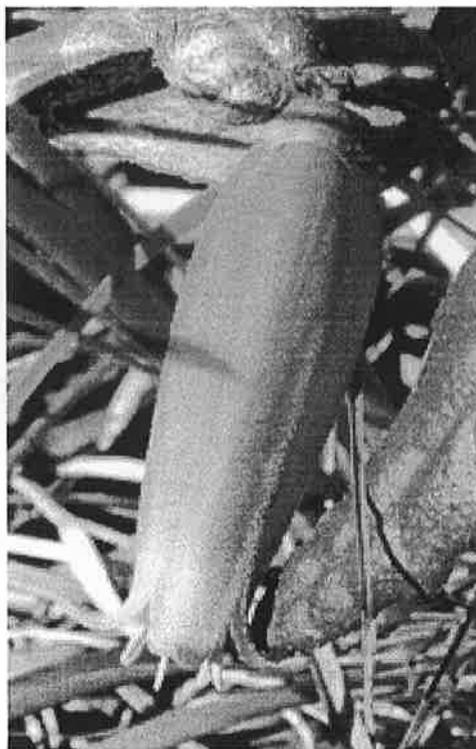
Max and Regina McDowall write:

I attach the list of plants which I sent you (to Paul Carmen) previously of the *Correa* Plants you distributed from the 2004 CSG Field Trip to New South Wales, with the addition of a clone from Ulladulla Lighthouse Road. All my specimens except Ulladulla 4 are thriving in 6" pots, and the time has come to prune them and decide which merit further propagation.

I intended to score them when they were in flower but the arrival of our second grandchild in August and continuing health problems of Mia (now 4) have made great demands on Regina's time which has loaded more duties on to me. So I didn't, and now they are not in flower.

We found our garden plants of Ulladulla Lighthouse Road Clone to be better than the other six clones from Ulladulla, but have only one specimen which is in the garden. Ulladulla 6 was supposed to have larger flowers than 1-5

but we did not find it so. I'm sorry I cannot comment further on the Croobyare, Congo, Snapper Point and Durras clones as I cannot recall their characters, so will have to wait for next season.



Correa reflexa var speciosa 'Ulladulla'
Photo: Paul Carmen

If you or any of the others to whom I will send copies of this letter made notes of their clones or can provide any further evaluation, please let me know shortly in case it might help us to concentrate on propagating the better clones. I do not have room to grow many of them in the ground. Other excellent *Correa reflexa* clones I am growing include:

DeMotts Road, Brisbane Ranges to 1.5 m.
very large red and green bell very hardy in garden

Zumsteins Track, Grampians CSG 2003
large red and yellow bell also summer flowering
difficult in garden

Lake Loyguna - CSG 2004 cutting swap
(where is Lake Loyguna? - Google doesn't know
- who collected it please?)

McLaren Vale - Jan Simpson, CSG 2004 cutting swap)

Hawthorn Road near Nowra GSG field trip 2003
early autumn flowering - garden specimen
moribund

Correa reflexa var speciosa from Paul Carmen
 Collected on Correa Study Group Field Trip
 June 2004



C. reflexa var angustifolia
 Grampians
 Photo: M. Hitchcock

Plant	No.	O'N	L M	N M	McD
Croobyar	5	1	1	1	2
Congo 1	3	1	1		1
Congo 2	2		1		1
Ulladulla 1	6	2	1	1	2
Ulladulla 2	1				1
Ulladulla 4	2	1			-1
Ulladulla 5	2	1			1
Ulladulla 6	2	1			1
Ulladulla WF Res	2	1			1
Ulladulla LHRd	0				1
Snapper Pt	2	1			1
Durras Mtn	1				1

Max will have a complete set potted on in 6" pots grown on for comparison and further distribution of cuttings to the others.

Bob will have most clones, except Durras Mtn and Congo 2, maybe planted out.

Lola will have both Congo clones

Neil and Lola can select other clones from the reference sets of Max or Bob when grown on.

Excellent work Max. I found these clones not very reliable up here but they may perform better in other gardens. Perhaps we can have an update from Lola, Bob and Neil and anyone else who is growing any of the forms mentioned. Ed

Jan Simpson writes:

We had rain, RAIN, RAIN 29/12/06
 Just a stormy afternoon, but 4mm in bottom of catch buckets. In answer to your query C. 'Bicheno Bells' is one of the many subsumed into C. [pulchella] 'Pink Mist'. Is listed as such in first listing of *Aust Plants* you edited for Correa Study Group. In Canb, it's drought & frost hardy in gypsum treated clay over rotten granite, if slow growing.

Has its "water dish" area mulched with small rocks & pebbles. These stop collar rot; shed water into the soil; evaporating H2O condenses on cool underside & soaks back into soil; makes for cool root run even in garden that has not yet produced its overhead cover. Beds have a Euc mulch mainly, of many different sizes, so it doesn't pack down too much; & prevent water reaching soil.

I have a [post-fire] plant of it. Do you need a photo? mature dimensions?

Yes please. Ed

Have bought a C. [pulchella] 'Mallee Fire', & put it into a deeper 120mm pot as I wish to take it into a 2007 ANPS meeting for 'Show 'n' Tell'. I find, the deeper the pot the better the potted collection survives summer, on the watering I give the plants in the ANPS' southern shadehouse. I have started a new potted collection, even tho' I know Paul & Cathy [Carmen] have one for stock plants. I want to be able to take plants in flower, to Information Stalls, as "show-off /display" advertising. When the plants move into standard 200mm/ 8" pots, they go into the "standard ANPS' display pot" of moss green, so they don't get sold.

Quite often Canb region "markets"/ "field days"/ "garden extravaganzas linked to district open gardens", I meet up with 2 ANPS' Canb member-growers, selling native plants on their own behalf. We normally try to be close enough to re-inforce each other, but not next to each other, so the whole "native complex" can be avoided.

When plants need potting on, I follow the tip from the Prostanthera Study Group.

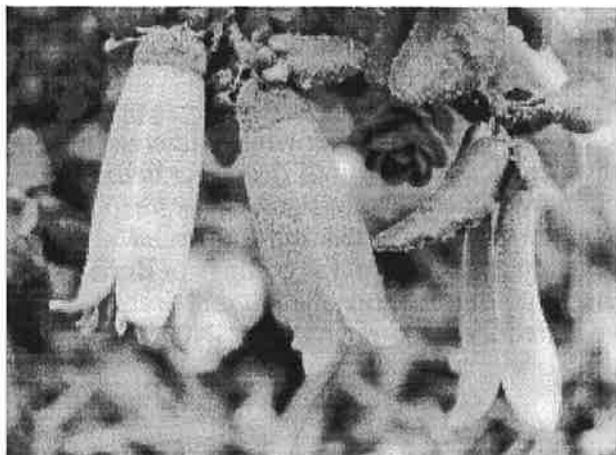
Tip out plant. Cut soil off one 1/4 edge. Trim 3 - 4cm soil off bottom of roots. Both measures normally done in one blow with sharp spade, a/c to Prost Study Group leader. Put some new soil into base, return plant to pot & fill space with new soil. Water with "weak tea" strength fish & seaweed mixture to help roots re-establish; & top up soil level. Put label into new soil as marker. Do another side following year. Other sizes just have a "slip cover" moss green pot.

Thanks Jan. Does anyone else have any tips on re-potting? Ed.

Paul & Cathy's *C. glabra* flowering time I think it is the weather. Many of my plants are out of synch. My old pre-fire *C. glabra* plants, used to regularly begin blooming in Feb. This season, such plants would be in bloom now [late Dec], as many plants are 3 weeks early. For example:-

the *C. reflexa* from Crookwell Native Nursery, is in flower NOW Late Dec, when it should begin in late March - early April.

C. reflexa [Point Hicks] has not stopped flowering since it started in early August t06;



C. reflexa 'Green Cape'
Photo: Tony Cavanagh

C. reflexa 'Green Cape' (Lola Mensch's clone) started to bloom in late Aug 06 & still is in bloom in Jan 07. Lola's clone is not the clone I had pre Jan 03 fire, which was lankier (that's as close as I can pin it down) in growth. Lola kindly gave me a growing plant after the fires. Both clones have very heavy bronzy-brown new growth, a distinct maroon-red top to the bell with a yellow-green tip - but - here's a distinguishing feature on both clones - there's an integrating band of overlap that's sort of striped, with lighter & deeper tones of same colour. Each section of colour on the corolla uses 1/3 of the space. 'Green Cape' is a very late flowering form. In Canberra it starts to bloom in mid Sept. on old wood & new wood is still flowering by late Oct, when Canb. has its Native Plant Sale. So - instead of being a winter flowerer, it's slap across spring.

Don McLaren writes:

I am still having trouble identifying the different species and have sent 2 more photos. I was given some cuttings of the pink *C. alba* which are now growing. The green flower which I think may be *C. calycina*, I photographed in the Grampians. My cuttings died. Is there a good book available with lots of photos that I can purchase.

There are sections on Correas in the general native plant books but none specifically on Correas. Hopefully it won't be too long. Ed.



C. alba pink
Photo: Don McLaren

I was having trouble getting cuttings to grow so I tried grafting onto my *C. calycina* hybrid which grows easily. I had instant success and so far have 7 grafted plants in the ground doing well. Those grafted are *C. nummulariifolia* C. 'Granny's Grave', *C. alba*, *C. glabra* var. *turnbullii* (*schlechtendalii*), *C. alba* pink and an unknown plant from Port Fairy. As these plants are still small, I can't predict the long term success. I also have 6 seedlings growing.



C. aemula Grampians
Photo: Don McLaren

Fascinating stuff, Don. Most people would shy away from grafting and you're so comfortable with the technique. Why don't you write a short article on your methods. I think your Grampians plant is C. aemula. C. calycina is restricted to a small area in S. Australia. Ed

Introducing David and Barbara Pye

Barb and I have been growing Australian plants for 40 years, firstly in Melbourne and more recently (since 1980) in Bullengarook, in the hills an hour north west of Melbourne. We have been SGAP and APS members since 1967, and are active in our local group (APS Melton & Bacchus Marsh). Barb was previously a special needs teacher and I was a biological scientist involved in medical research (vaccine development).

Having both "retired", we operate a small "hobby" nursery which produces a range of Australian plants. We have found that the most popular plants at the local markets have been *Correas* and *Eremophilas*. We are particularly interested in the garden cultivation of plants suitable for our region, and we favour plants that not only provide garden colour but are important to garden ecology.

We like plants that provide bed and board for wildlife, especially birds. We prefer plants that have attractive foliage, attractive flowers and which are easy to grow. We grow most of our *Correas* in 9 cm square "bottomless" pots, finding that we get better root systems with these pots than with conventional round pots. There is no root girdling and the roots do not need teasing out at the time of planting.

We have a large garden (2 acres or more), at an altitude of 500m on the side of Mt Bullengarook. The garden is west facing, and the slope and very open soils result in very good

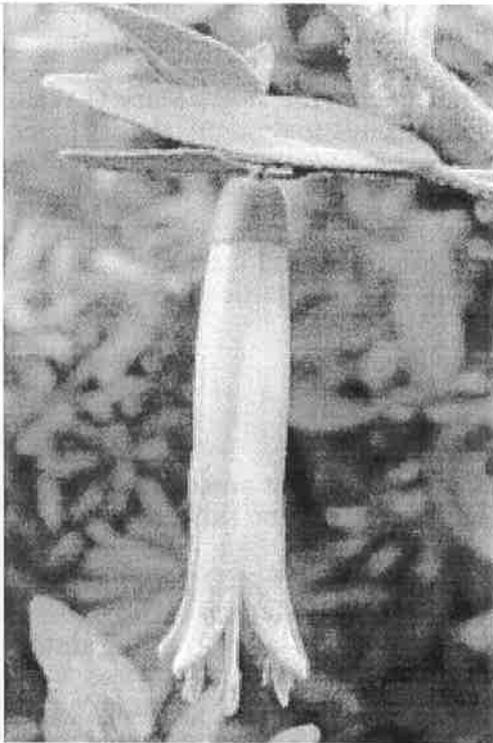
drainage. Our soils are acid and very well suited to WA *Banksias* and other *Proteacea*. The climate is cool, but frosts are mild due to the slope and the cold air draining into the valley below. Our rainfall has averaged 700mm (28 inches), and our climate is dry in summer and autumn, and moist or wet in winter and spring. Garden water is limited, we do not have town water, and plants receive no watering after establishment. Our garden is now sheltered with many established trees and large shrubs.

Correas generally thrive in our conditions and we are growing many forms of *Correa glabra*, *reflexa*, *pulchella*, *alba* and hybrids. We have just had a very dry summer, and most established *Correas* have survived, including *Correa baeuerlenii* and two forms of *Correa lawrenceana* which have received no water from us since planting several years ago. Indeed the only *Correas* that we lost during the drought were some recently planted forms of *Correa reflexa*. Indeed this species (some forms only) is the least easy of the *Correas* that we have tried.

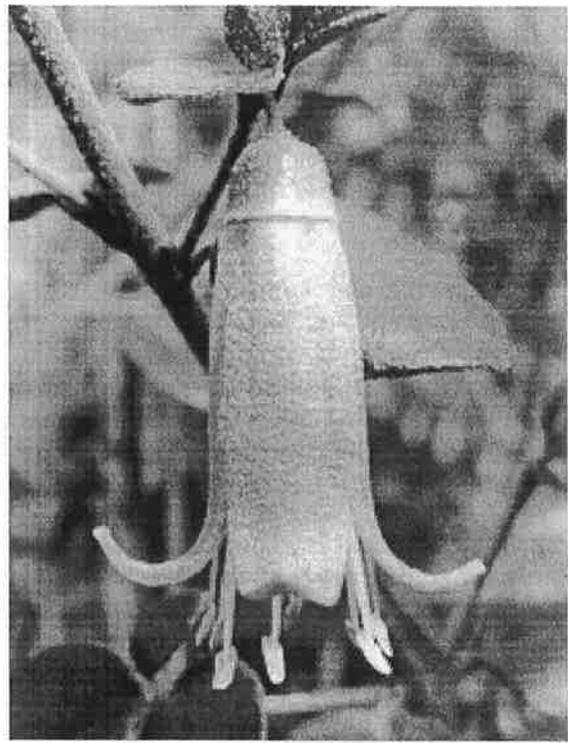
We are particularly fond of *C. pulchella* finding that all forms that we have tried to date (a dozen or so) grow well here. They also appear well suited to the nearby towns of Bacchus Marsh and Melton which are at lower altitude than us and drier (about 500mm rainfall). Their climate resembles that of the Yorke and Eyre Peninsulas.

The main pests have been rosellas and wallabies. Rosellas strip the plants of flowers and Wallabies strip the plants of foliage and new growth. An electric fence now keeps the wallabies out of the garden and an increased number of plants is overwhelming the rosellas with more flowers than they can handle. We have had some problem with rabbits eating the roots, but this seems to be under control at present.

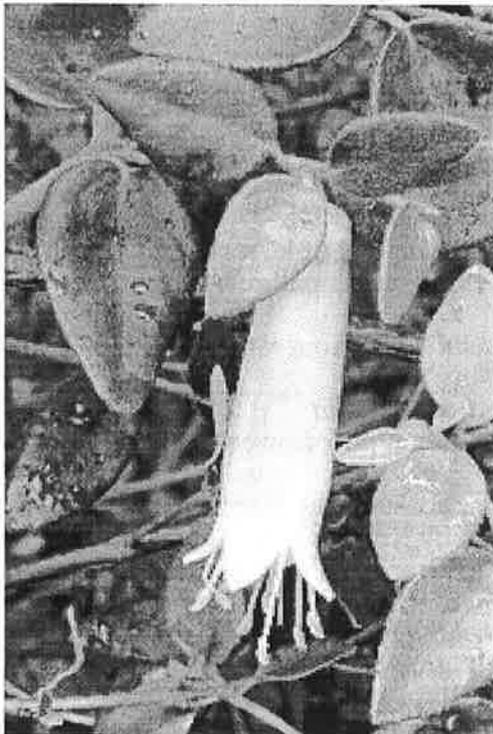
We get many *correa* seedlings appearing in the garden. They flower while still small so that we can leave them until flowering before deciding whether to weed them out or keep them. To date, we have selected four for further cultivation, and can provide cuttings of three of them. The fourth is too small at this time. We have called them *Correas* SN01, SN02, SN03 and SN04.



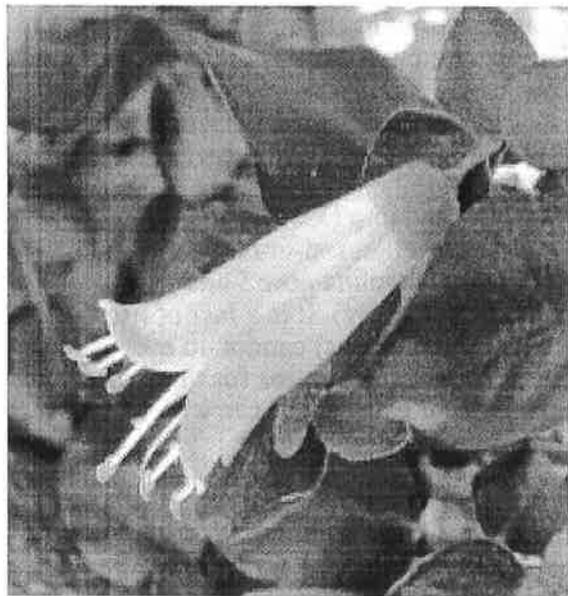
Correa seedling SN01
Spreading groundcover shrub, 0.2m x 1m,
Pink bells with green tips



Correa seedling SN03
Bushy shrub to 1m x 1m,
Bright rich pink bells



Correa seedling SN02
Bushy shrub to 1m x 1m,
Dusky pink bells with white tips



Correa seedling SN04
Too young to ascertain size,
Pale pink bell

Introducing Cherree Densley

Well, she has really done what she threatened to do 6 months ago- yes our fantastic, inspirational, gifted and smart Leader has said what she would do- resign as Leader (after 16 years running a group much larger than many District Groups around the country). Whilst cursing her- (I felt honour bound to take on the

job) I must admit there is no-one who deserves a break more than Maria. However, what we talked about on the phone recently assured me that Maria will continue with the writing of and publication of 'THE BOOK' out of her hair and will also work on some other exciting projects designed to spread the word on her (and our) beloved correas.

Meanwhile as your new Leader, I am getting the glory and spotlight- whilst being just SO clever in allowing David and Barbara Pye to do ALL the work- the administration AND the production of the Newsletter. David and Barbara have a great nursery at Bullengarok near Gisborne in Victoria.

It is David and Barbara I thank most sincerely for getting me back on track with my correas. Correas have been well and truly on the backburner for the last 4 years as other interests have been developed. David and Barbara visited us here in Killarney 12 months ago on a correa collecting trip. Subsequently they managed to grow quite a few Correas from those cuttings from my aging and neglected garden and then just 12 months ago (almost like magic) I received a full box of beautifully grown plants which are now happily growing, budding and flowering in a garden bed here in Killarney.

This particularly drought-affected garden bed has had heaps of major surgery since I returned from Italy. (I spent some of Sept, all of Oct and Nov and into Dec last year travelling with daughter Kellie, son-in-law Peter and grandchildren Angelina now 5 and Riley now 3 through northern Italy). It is a fact of life that one (however hard one tries) cannot do everything- well, you cannot go overseas for three months and expect your garden will carry on happily without you.

Ian, my long suffering husband, however, did manage and manage very well to carry on happily without me. He mentioned he only had take-away about three times in three months- do you believe him? I'm still not sure. Meanwhile the garden became overgrown and straggly with no watering or care- the echidnas, swamp wallabys, snakes and koalas moved in. The drought of course took its toll and things were getting desperate when I returned so the correas which David and Barbara grew for me needed a new garden bed to be created from the old- hence the major surgery. My aching back, blistered fingers and nearly a worn out spade, secateurs and saw are all by-products of the new Pye correa bed!!

The cuttings and subsequent plants they grew for me are as follows:

C. reflexa Anglesea forest Mary D White
Nearly lost this due to drought- thrives in the shade

C. reflexa x alba Coconut Ice
Very lovely flower- good bush
Hybrid from Dowling garden, SA

C. alba hybrid Benara Bell
Small neat bush

C. aff. calycina
originally from Marriott nursery
Strong huge bush- unique flowers

C. glabra form Moonglow
from Lola & Charles Mensch
Very tough and lovely long flowering shrub

C. reflexa coastal Granny's Grave
Registered with ACRA- terrific ground cover plant

C. reflexa Jens Rd (Grampians)
collected by Max McDowell
Low growing, small leaves, huge glowing flowers

C. reflexa Glenelg River,
collected by Andrew Pritchard from Pritchards'
Landing
Willowy growth, dusky red flowers

C. reflexa Glenelg River Red River Bells
Been around a long time, registered with ACRA,
terrific tough bush small red/yellow bells

C. puchella x backhouseana
'just lovely'
C. reflexa x pulchella 'Prolific'
Prostrate cream/pink flower

C. reflexa coastal near Warrnambool
(collected by Ken Arthur)
Similar to Grannys Grave but smaller leaf

C. pulchella x reflexa
originally grown by Wittunga gardens SA
Photo in Elliot and Jones Encyclopaedia of
Australian Plants Vol 3, pg 94

I was just so pleased and grateful to David and Barbara for growing new plants from my old plants. Propagation is something I just haven't had the time for in the last 3 years and there is a serious risk that I could lose plants. Some of my plants are not grown widely

although there have been many people who have collected from my garden over the years and I have taken bundles of cuttings to many nurseries to spread them around. My correa collection has evolved from when I first joined the new Correa Study Group around 1990 when Trish McTavish was the Leader and then Maria took over in June 1991.

How our garden has evolved and developed is a huge story in itself. Many lessons are learnt on the way, and as Maria has pointed out time and time again, correas flourish when they are pruned regularly and lightly and cared for. If one plants and forgets, then one pays the price of overgrown lanky plants which will not flower as well as they could. (However, I have found that many correas do not need pruning- another topic for a future Newsletter).

A major (but nice problem) with correas is that there are just so many new ones continually coming onto the market. Each nursery you visit has different ones each season (with interesting and attractive labels) and then there are some old favourites which reappear but with a lovely attractive label and a new catchy name (dreamt up from who knows where).

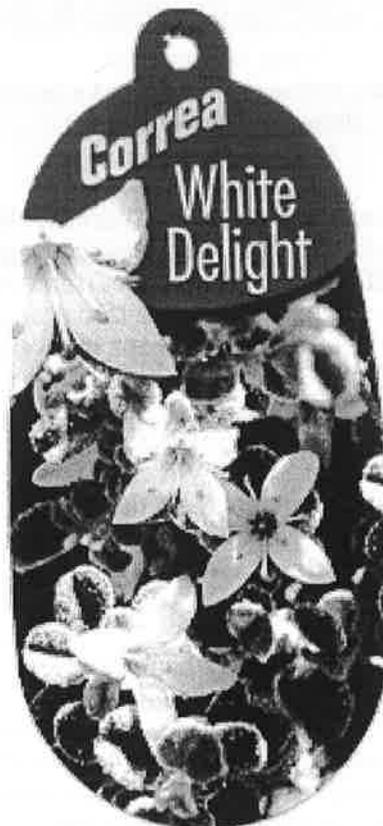
Just one recent example seen in a nursery was *Correa alba* (low coastal form). Here it was with a lovely label and named 'White Delight'. The accompanying photo on the label was beautifully done showing its frosty foliage and crystal white flowers- who could resist it?

This apparently haphazard naming of cultivars I feel is not a huge problem – at least most nurseries now are recognising that correas are everything they look for in a successful selling product- flower whilst young, healthy and attractive foliage, don't need staking, most suitable for the smaller garden, great in pots, sun, shade, etc - don't get me started. Who can blame the wholesale growers for introducing as many new ones as they can get their hands on, organising a new name and label. They know that they will get lots of re-orders from their clients.

However as Study Group members we need to try and keep track of names. Maria has a great knowledge of names and I'm sure she has a great database. Keeping records is not my strongest point and my memory is increasingly questionable. Data keeping will be another area for David and Barbara and they are happy to do this. David also has considerable computer skills and already does one of the District Group Newsletters –between us we'll manage to keep

this most successful Study Group going and keep its many members as well informed as possible.

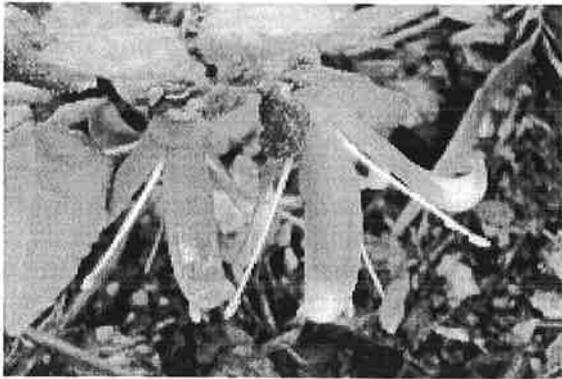
Thanks Maria for your leadership- you have kept and increased our wonderful Study Group membership with your enthusiasm, encouragement and sheer attention to detail. It will take three of us to replace you!!



Correa alba var pannosa 'White Delight'

Hardy groundcover growing to 0.3-0.5m x 1.2m with beautiful, greyish foliage with rusty tonings and profuse white, star-like flowers in summer and autumn. *C. alba var pannosa* grows naturally on shallow soils over limestone in south east S.A. and western Victoria and often on exposed coastal headlands and cliffs.

C. 'White Delight' may be used as a groundcover for general garden plantings or large scale landscaping and embankments. It prefers full sun or part shade and well-drained soil. It is tolerant of limestone soils, coastal exposure and frost. plants themselves are generally compact and need only occasional pruning.



Correa 'Portland Belle'
lost and re-found and now given a name!!
(formerly Split Bell *Correa*)
Photo: Tony Cavanagh

About five years ago, Andrew Pritchard of Warrnambool located and took cuttings of a superbly different *correa* with a carmine red split bell with green tips and a white throat on a plant he found growing between heaps of wonderful *Correa reflexa var speciosa* and *Correa alba var alba* near Deans Walk in the heath-land behind where the Alco Smelter is at Portland. He gave many of our SGAP Warrnambool and District members plants from those cuttings. It is such a distinctive flower. (See Maria's scan on page 11 *Correa* Study Group Newsletter No 31 June 2005).

A few things have happened since-cuttings have made their way into the trade- I know of at least 3 Nurseries growing it and, as well, APS members are helping to spread it around via their meetings and garden visits. If you remember it was Tim Boehm who wrote the short article in that same Newsletter asking if anyone knew of its origins. I replied in a subsequent Newsletter- No 32 Dec 2005.

Our District Group has made two further trips to this heath-land –both to relocate it again. The second trip was late May this year (2007) where Kevin Sparrow, Lorraine Deppeler and myself spent three to four hours patiently working our way through the area. This heath-land, like many I believe, is suffering from rapid invasions of the coastal wattle which smothers so completely. All natural flora – and there are some very wonderful plants here- just gets overwhelmed with the wattle and it makes finding anything again quite difficult. This area is managed by Parks Victoria who are doing regular work to check the spread of this vigorous invasive plant, but it is difficult work. It took us three hours to refind the special one with the split bell as we worked our way through dense head-high heath-land plants.

Hopefully if we need further cutting material it won't take so long as this time we took a GPS- well two of them actually. It was a fine breezy day on the 25th May- and perfect weather for being out on the exposed heath-land. The low slanting rays of the autumn sun made things a little difficult at times but the flora looked healthy and green- this area of Portland had had 50mm of rain just one week prior to our visit.

Finally at 38.23.490S and 141.36.475E we found not just one plant but a whole swarm (I just love Maria's term for groups of the same plants in the wild). Flowering had just commenced. I think we went later in the year last time - on the Queens Birthday weekend. The plants had some old flowers, some out and plenty of buds. Kevin had his digital camera working overtime as we congratulated ourselves on our diligence and good luck. During the morning we had also found lots of reflexas in green, white, cream, pink, pink and white and lovely shades of red. And in a band at the base of the old sand-dune the *Correa alba var alba* were at their crystal white best. (It IS a superb area.)

So we are now in the process of registering the name of *Correa* 'Portland Belle' with ACRA. The plants that have been spread around in the last four years have had a good chance to be assessed and trialed. From all accounts- and we would like more- it is a superbly healthy small growing *correa* with attractive foliage growing strongly and densely and of course when it flowers- well it is easily recognisable. My own original plant from Andrew I wrote about recovered very well from being eaten down to a few short sticks by rabbits has now had two healthy growing seasons to recover- no water and very dry years here at Killarney. But it doing particularly well.

We hope you like the name of 'Portland Belle' – we canvassed a lot of people to get a suitable name. Some of the ideas were - Red Skirt, Do the Splits, Lady in Red, Pixie Skirt - but nothing seemed right- Split Bell (as it has been known for four years) is descriptive but pretty ordinary- then we went back to the need for incorporating the location in the name - and so the name evolved to *Correa* 'Portland Belle'.

So this becomes the third *correa* which has been registered by SGAP Warrnambool & District- *Correa* 'Granny's Grave' (a coastal form of *Correa reflexa* has been most successful and a wonderful garden plant and *Correa* 'Western Pink Star' –a superb ground cover. (a pink coloured form of *Correa alba var pannosa*)

—both have been registered for many years with ACRA.

PS We had a permit to collect the cuttings we have taken from this area.

More of Cherree's new Labels

Correa 'Tucker Time Multi Bella' (Image on Page 1)

This form of *Correa reflexa* is a small spreading shrub (45-60 cm H x 35-40 cm W) with mid-green foliage, over which many paired groups of dusty-pink and green-tipped bells are displayed from autumn to mid spring. The nectar-rich, tubular flowers are highly attractive to honeyeaters and other small birds will feed upon visiting insects.

Grows well in full sun or light shade, in cool temperate to sub-tropical and semi-arid climates, and suits a wide range of moist to dry or well-drained clay loams or sand, or even stony soils, mildly alkaline to slightly acid pH. Withstands moderate frosts; is drought tolerant and is suitable for second line coastal conditions.

Plant in clusters or among other small shrubs; forms a stunning container plant for deck or patio, flowering for many months. Flowers last well in water. Tip prune regularly or shape lightly in spring after flowering is finished or in early autumn prior to bud set; feed in early spring or late summer with low phosphorus controlled release fertiliser. Do not over water pots. Bill Molyneux of Austraflo Nursery writes:

'Multi Bella' is indeed a spectacular cultivar, as you commented. On one plant that we presently have in a container (plant is c. 30cm high) there would be 600 buds with more developing.

Correa 'Marian's Mini'

This beautiful compact plant is a hybrid of *Correa 'Marian's Marvel'*, originating in the gardens of Native Plant Wholesalers, Mount Gambier SA. It has attractive foliage and very profuse pink and yellow bell flowers in Autumn to early Winter. Plants grow to 1-1.2m x 1m and are very hardy, tolerant of lime, drought and frost. Prune after flowering to maintain compact shape. This is an outstanding feature plant or would make a beautiful informal hedge. *Correa 'Marian's Mini'* is an excellent bird attracting plant.
(Information from the back of the label)



CORREA
MARIAN'S MINI



Correa 'Lemon Twist'

This small spreading shrub (20 cm x 1.1m) is a hybrid of *Correa reflexa var nummulariifolia* and *C. alba*, which occurred in the gardens of Native Plant Wholesalers in Mount Gambier SA. It has attractive shiny foliage and well-displayed lemon-cream flowers in autumn to early spring. This variety prefers well-drained soil in full sun or part shade and is tolerant of frost and coastal conditions. Prune well after flowering.

(Information from the back of the label)